

Style tips for academic writing

Academic writing is:

Formal
Objective (Impersonal avoiding
Cautious or tentative there are very few absolute truths
Uses references

Formal

Avoid slang

Okay, pretty reliable, fix, dead easy, really diffic

Avoid contractions

Objective

Passive voice:

Is objective

puts emphasis on the action rather than the person who carried out the action

- The flask was filled with water.
 - The researcher filled the flask with water
- Useful if you need to keep confidentiality

Good for examples where the doer is unknown

Active voice:

Strong sentences

Cautious or tentative

It appears that... It may be that... It seems as though... It is likely that... This suggests that... It is possible...

References

Use references to support your work:

You need to provide evidence and justification for the ideas you put forward. References also show off the research you have done!

Avoid vague overgeneralisations:

Dozens of books have been written over the years about this subject by numerous authors. A review paper would support this claim

Various examples have been seen in many parts of the country throughout the years.

Simple writing is elegant, clear, and concise

Simple sentences

Use simple sentences (especially when the ideas are complex)

Th

(The book belonging to the professor was on the table.)

Make every word count. Write with precision. Check the contextual meanings of new words (especially if you have used a thesaurus)

Avoid long phrases when a simple word will do the work

This evidence suggests the area may have been occupied during the Bronze Age.

The evidence presented here could be said to indicate a possibility that the area was occupied during the Bronze Age

Useful Resource

writing, organised by their function, e.g for defining a term, or for introducing criticisms.

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>

